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Agenda item 90

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Elvina **Jusufaj** (Albania)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 58/30 of 8 December 2003.

2. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 29 September 2005, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 85 to 105, which was held at the 2nd to 7th meetings, from 3 to 7 October (see A/C.1/60/PV.2-7). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 8th to 17th meetings, from 10 to 14 and from 17 to 21 October (see A/C.1/60/PV.8-17). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 23rd meetings, from 24 to 26 and on 28 and 31 October and 1 November (see A/C.1/60/PV.18-23).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the letter dated 27 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/60/121).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.8

5. At the 19th meeting, on 25 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, submitted a draft resolution entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" (A/C.1/60/L.8). Subsequently, Bangladesh joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 21st meeting, on 28 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.8 without a vote (see para. 7).

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III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,[2] which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Taking note of the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[3] affirming that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols concerning them to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and that lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[4] that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (*b*) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force, and to conclude

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[1] See A/50/426, annex.

[2] A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex.

[3] S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;[5]

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

[5] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/540 (Corrected).